

The Scranton Tribune

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When space will permit, the Tribune is always glad to print short letters from its friends bearing on current topics, but its rule is that these must be signed, and publication by the writer's real name; and the conditions precedent to acceptance is that all contributions shall be subject to editorial revision.

TWELVE PAGES.

SCRANTON, DECEMBER 8, 1900.

Congressman Shibley's bill to add fifty per cent to the presidential term, making the executive ineligible to reelection but retiring him into the senate as a senator-at-large, with voice but not with vote, has the merit of clothing an old proposition in new trimmings. There is no doubt whatever as to the advisability of increasing the presidential term.

The Next Duty.

THE RESIGNATIONS of the ten guilty councilmen submitted and accepted Thursday night make ten vacancies to be filled by the voters of nine city wards. An even half dozen of these are located in Hyde Park and three are in Providence. The return from these seven wards of substantial and incorruptible citizens, men in every respect qualified to represent fairly the law-respecting and upright majority of the taxpaying voters of those wards, would go a great way toward redeeming our councils from disrepute and would cause the citizens of all other portions of the city to take courage in a similar uplifting of municipal standards.

A number of leading citizens of the West Side have under advisement, we are told, the holding of an old-fashioned town meeting to bring out the sentiment of the community and to help in the pushing forward of thoroughly representative men. The time for meditation is unfortunately brief but it seems to us that a meeting of this character should be held. Never was the occasion more timely or the need more pressing for an awakening of genuine civic interest and patriotism. Not alone have recent confessions of corrupt methods sounded an imperative summons to reform, but the proximity to a possible sweeping change in the forms of our city government, with wide-open doors to extravagance and mischief if the familiar morale of councils be not improved, lays an additional obligation upon the conscience and public spirit of those who would guide our city into ways of honest progress.

This is a time when the office should seek the man. A humiliated and bespotted city stands in pitiful need of redemption and the call to its best citizenship is one which dare not be disregarded.

The report that unless congress did thus and so Secretary Hay would resign evidently comes from a hostile source. Nothing in Mr. Hay's illustrious career gives any color to it.

Education in the United States.

HIDDEN within the voluminous annual report of the secretary of the interior are a number of sub-reports embodying facts of live popular interest. To extract these and put them into a readable dressing will be our endeavor from time to time.

We noticed yesterday a year's progress toward the education of the Indians. Today we invite attention to some figures from the report of the commissioner of education respecting the progress which is being made toward the education of the white race.

During the year ended July 1, 1900, there were enrolled in the public elementary and high schools of the United States 15,128,715 pupils or 20.1 per cent of the entire population. The number of students in colleges and universities is given as 103,251; schools of medicine, law, and theology, 55,134; normal schools, 68,380; the value of public school property is estimated at \$124,689,255; amount of current receipts from state taxes, \$36,197,238; from local taxes, \$143,371,150; income from permanent funds, \$9,019,375; other sources, \$15,429,749; total receipts being \$204,017,612. The amount expended for sites, buildings, furniture, etc., is reported to be \$39,249,549; teachers' salaries, \$128,662,830; other expenditures, \$35,888,774; total, excluding payment of bonds, \$197,811,603. Upon the basis of a total school attendance of all kinds of 16,788,892 and a total annual expenditure for educational purposes of \$197,251,603, the cost per pupil falls a few cents short of \$12 a year. When it is considered that each Indian pupil put into school last year cost Uncle Sam on an average \$116 the expenditure on education for the white man can hardly be called extravagant.

In Alaska there are 25 public schools, with 29 teachers and 1723 pupils. Hawaii reports 169 schools, of which 45 are private; number of male teachers, 192; female, 352; male pupils, 8,651; female, 6,839. Of the 15,490 pupils, 5,645 were Hawaiian, 2,721 part Hawaiian, 601 American, 213 British, 337 German, 882 Portuguese, 84 Scandinavian, 1,141 Japanese, 1,314 Chinese, 20 South Sea Islanders, and 124 other foreigners. Each nationality had its own teacher. The schools of Hawaii cost about \$300,000 a year. Public instruction in the Philippines is in its infancy with results as yet too meagre to recount; in Cuba, where in 1899 there had been only 200 schools with an attendance of 4,000, there were, in March last, 3099 schools, with 3500 teachers and 130,000 enrolled pupils. A board of education is established in each municipality to take charge of the schools, and the mayor, as president, vested with authority to appoint the other members. One public school for boys and one for girls is allowed in every town of 500

inhabitants, and more schools for larger populations; in smaller towns "incomplete" schools, those with less than 35 pupils, are provided for. Attendance is compulsory under penalty of a fine of from \$5 to \$25, and provision is made for superintendence and inspection of the schools, free textbooks, and other details.

As to what has been done for public education in Porto Rico a good deal has recently been written and it seems unnecessary to go over the ground again further than to say that a transformation in method is being wrought which cannot fail to affect favorably the rising generation.

The Army Canteen.

THE ADVANTAGE of having a "twisted partner" upon whom to throw blame when it becomes necessary is well illustrated in the house's treatment of the army canteen problem. The testimony of an overwhelming majority of experienced army officers is that the sale of malt and vinous liquors at the army post canteen under regulations calculated to prevent excess and enforce temperance is an incalculable improvement upon the alternative proposition, which is that the traffic in intoxicants should pass from the control of the army authorities into the control of the vintner-like civilians who bait their man traps with the vilest inducements just below the line where the commander's authority ceases.

On the one hand, clamoring against intelligent restriction, we have a mass of persons in civil life whose honesty of intentions and devotion to an ideal theory are beyond reproach but who have no standing whatever as witnesses to the practical conditions of army life, many of them never having seen a canteen. On the other hand, the preponderance of evidence and recommendation from the substantial officers of the army service, men whose entire careers since the age of manhood have been passed in camp and saddle, in personal contact with the conditions at stake, is unambiguously against doing away with government control of liquor selling in the army—an opinion formed not in sympathy with the vice of intemperance but on the practical basis of comparative results upon the morale of the service.

The house heeds the civilian clamor and ignores the military experts. But the house expects the senate to restore the canteen feature and prevent the demoralization of the service. Then the house will hide behind the senate's action.

Oom Paul should not build too many hopes upon Europe's verbal sympathy. Ever Lord Roberts professes to admire the Beers.

Japan.

IN THE COURSE of his references to the campaign in China Secretary Root in his annual report mentions an act of courtesy on the part of Japan which is worthy of notice. The climate of the province of Chili, in which our soldiers operated, was intensely hot when the relief forces arrived but in winter it becomes extremely cold. This necessitated the sending of 6 months' heavy supplies.

But the Washington authorities here encountered an obstacle. "It was impossible," says the secretary, "to discontinue the regular supply service for the army in the Philippines. In which our fleet of transports were engaged; it was impossible to withdraw from that service a sufficient number of vessels for a separate service to China, and there was not time to secure new transports. The problem was solved, however, through the courtesy of the Japanese government, which, upon our application through the State department, in the most friendly spirit, permitted us to use the port of Nagasaki, where the lines from the United States to Manila on the south and to Yaku on the north diverged, for the transshipment of supplies and material without passing through their custom-house and for the transfer of men not carrying arms. This enabled us to establish a subsidiary service, which, in connection with the main service to and from this country, distributed both men and materials between Nagasaki and Manila and between Nagasaki and Yaku, practically using both our Pacific ports and Manila as main bases and Nagasaki as a secondary base of supply. This arrangement was also very convenient and, as it ultimately proved, very valuable, in enabling us to direct each organization as it left this country to look for orders at Nagasaki, so that if at any time it should become apparent, as of course we always regarded it possible, that their services were not needed in China they could be diverted from Nagasaki to the Philippines, to take the place of an equal number of volunteers."

As bearing upon the military quality of the Japanese soldiers in the Pekin relief expedition, it is worthy of note that General Chaffee in his most interesting report of the American experiences in China, while striving to be neutral in his comments upon the allied forces, exhibits poorly concealed enthusiasm for the Japanese and British, and equally poorly masked contempt for the Russian and French soldiers. To the Japanese he gives credit for most of the quick marching, effective scouting, clever strategy and resourceful fighting done on the way from Tien-tsin to Pekin, and in this testimony he is corroborated by most of the American and British newspaper correspondents.

The United States are especially fortunate to be upon such good terms with their leading and promising neighbors in the Pacific.

A life-time of creditable service lay behind the explosive offense which caused General Eagan's suspension as commissary general. The offense was bad, but it has been explained. The worst thing about it was not Eagan's guilt but the inexcusable apathy of congress in the years when the present inefficient staff system was building up

its mountains of red tape and official arrogance, in relation to which Eagan's little indiscretion was only a circumstance. The president in pardoning and retiring Eagan closes an incident lamentable in all its features and turns what it is to be hoped will be a new leaf in army management.

The amendment which it is proposed in the senate to add to the Hay-Pauncefote canal treaty and which, if accepted by the administration, will, it is said, insure the treaty's prompt ratification, provides that nothing in the treaty shall apply to measures which the United States may find it necessary to take for securing, by its own forces, the defense of the United States and the maintenance of public order. This impresses us as being as harmless as a dose of homoeopathic medicine. We can conceive of no treaty stipulation which could under any fair interpretation debar the United States from obeying the supreme and inexorable law of self-preservation.

Bishop Potter's vigorous arraignment of the greed of gain, which he characterizes as the high crime of our civilization, is none too severe. The passion to be rich, to take part in the pleasures which worldly wealth affords, to command the homage very generally paid to influence and power, is unquestionably a very menacing one. And yet, could those who envy see the truth about those whom they envy the infatuation would vanish and our social life would right itself to a more rational and humane level. What is needed respecting all these evils is a greater prevalence of plain common sense.

There appears to be a prevalent belief that everybody can run an army except those who have made running one a life study. This hallucination is often expensive.

Perhaps the best thing for France would be to let General Mercier try on his new scheme for invading England. It would at all events rid France of Mercier.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Forescope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrological cast: 1.18 a. m. for Saturday, Dec. 8, 1900.

There will be anxiety on part of a child born on this day, lest the city of the second class develop some lunatics of the first class.

The man who succeeds in winning the admiration of the person who pays his salary may not display good judgment.

When a man is regarded in the same light by his Sunday school pupil and his \$5-a-week employe, the highest grade of approaching perfection will have been attained.

In the eyes of some persons friends are the children's toys to be thrown aside and soon forgotten when new features of amusement appear.

The woman who bestows her affections upon the dead-broke man demonstrates true love, but does not display good judgment.

Stimulants are never injurious when on the outside of man.

Ajacchus' Advice.

It is well to be regular in all habits unless they are bad habits.

Weekly Letter on Municipal Affairs.

XXVII.—SANITARY BARBER SHOPS.

BOSTON IMPOSES stiff restrictions upon its (sanitary) artists, but Michigan has a barber's commission which is even more rigid in the application of its restrictive rules. The application of interest to the barber's shop has been so successful in Boston that the question is now being agitated in other New England cities. But the East is not a leader in this innovation. For Missouri, Minnesota and Michigan have had state laws governing barber shops for several years, the operation of which has been most satisfactory.

The idea upon which the hearty approval of the fraternity as a class, for it has a tendency to strengthen prices and drive out the cheap barber. The executive board of the National Barber Association of America, in a resolution adopted to secure the passage of laws similar to that in operation elsewhere, in all the states of the Union. A bill will be introduced in the Pennsylvania legislature this winter and in New York which will provide for the rigid regulation of all barber shops.

When speaking of the work in his state, Secretary F. M. Van Horn's facts and figures are of interest. He says: "Some of the questions asked applicants for a license before the board of examiners may sound very simple but they are important, nevertheless, and must be answered intelligently before the coveted license is granted. For instance, the barber is asked to smile at the applicant of the question, 'What kind of a father would you be if you were a father?' 'How are bristles fastened on the hand?' 'That's easy,' he says to himself; but the answers are not always satisfactory. There are certain kinds of hands that gather dirt and other unwholesome accumulations, and the up-to-date barber will use only those that have proved the best and most cleanly.

"Another simple question is, 'What do you use for washing hair from a customer's face?' The barber (and we occasionally find one) that writes, 'a sponge' in the answer blank is advised to get it out right away, as a most reprehensible practice, and to provide a clean towel for each customer.

"The question, 'What do you use for applying powder to a customer's face?' is also asked. The answer, 'powder puff.' This practice is also condemned by the commission. There is no safer method of communicating skin diseases than by the application of the same powder puff to each customer's face. The last examination form consisted of sixteen questions, upon which the applicant must secure a percentage of seventy. He must be a citizen of the United States, tell how long he has worked at the business, whether he served as an apprentice under a regular barber or just picked up his trade, whether he ever worked in a barber's college, which institutions are not recognized by the profession; on what kind of a horse he prepares his razors for use, what kind of a solution he uses for disinfecting his razors, clippers and brushes; what he does for cleaning hair brushes, comb and shaving brushes; how to stop the flow of blood in case a customer is cut, and give his ideas on the best method for treating a skin disease; how to treat faces with eruptions caused principally by close shaving, for dandruff and for loss of hair.

"The law," continued Mr. Van Horn, "doesn't expect a barber to be a physician, but we do expect him to be familiar with the best methods of preventing skin diseases by sterilizing his tools, the use of proper antiseptics, etc. The exact important section of the law reads as follows: 'Each applicant shall be examined concerning his ability to prepare and to use the ordinary tools and utensils used by barbers, including the proper antiseptic treatment of razors, shears, clippers, brushes, combs, shaving cups and towels, the nature and effect of eruptive and other diseases of the skin, and whether the same are infectious or communicable. No person so examined shall receive the certificate of the board unless he shall appear to be skilled in the use of a barber's tools and utensils, and his knowledge sufficient to prevent the spread by means of barbers' tools and appliances of eruptive and other diseases of the skin and scalp. No person so examined shall receive such certificate who is at the time of such examination an

alien; provided, that no barber shall receive a certificate who is in the habit of using intoxicating liquors in the preparation of his hair. 'It would surprise you,' said Mr. Van Horn, with an expression of mock gravity, 'to know how many absolute teetotallers there are in the barber's profession. In the license blanks a question reads as follows: 'Are you addicted to the daily use of spirituous liquors, narcotics or opium?' Almost invariably a decided 'No' is returned. In the license blanks a question is asked: 'Do you use any intoxicating liquors in the preparation of your hair?' The answer is invariably 'No.' 'We have had a few unlicensed barbers up in the state who are unscrupulous, but the honest barbers, with few exceptions, are not. The honest barbers, with few exceptions, are not. The honest barbers, with few exceptions, are not.

"The commission has accomplished a world of good in the passage of the law in June, 1900," continued Mr. Van Horn, "and the industry and unreliable habits are gradually being weeded out through stringent enforcement. It is to be hoped that the honest barbers will eventually become a majority."

The first fiscal year of the Michigan state for registration of barbers was only recently completed. A highly successful agricultural law to be of a most beneficial character, and barbers generally all over the state are pleased with its workings and are lending their hearty aid in its enforcement. It has caused an increase in the wages of journeymen barbers and has given the proprietors a better class of workmen.

Some \$5,000 has been turned into the state treasury, and in the neighborhood of 4,000 barbers have been registered, about 600 by examination. There are only about a thousand barbers in the state who are unlicensed, and the number is decreasing every day, and by the end of the next fiscal year it is expected that the enforcement of the law will improve materially, and a proportionate increase in benefit to the barber business in the state.

Comparative Study of World's Commerce.

Special Correspondence. Washington, Dec. 7.

A STATISTICAL abstract of the world which has just been published by the bureau of statistics in the department of commerce, shows that the world's trade in goods and services is not only of today, but extending back over a long term of years, and to show that commerce in detail as to principal articles, countries, and quantities, is a work of no small magnitude, and of such great importance to the commercial interests of the country that it is being carried out by the bureau of statistics. The details of this work, which will be published under the personal supervision of the chief of the bureau, have been entrusted to Mr. Benjamin A. H. Schilling, a distinguished German philosopher and an extraordinary master of philosophy at Jena.

The opening chapter of the proposed volume deals with the world's trade in goods and services, and the principal countries from which the trade is obtained and to which its exports are distributed. The figures on the total commerce, country by country, which have already been completed, are as follows: In 1870, the total value of the world's trade was \$1,200,000,000, and in 1899, it had increased to \$12,000,000,000, an increase of 1,000 per cent. In the case of the United States the total value of the world's trade in 1870 was \$22,121,291, and in 1899, it had increased to \$2,121,291,291, an increase of 1,000 per cent. In the case of France the comparison is equally interesting. The imports for consumption in 1870 were \$70,726,000, and in 1899, they had increased to \$7,072,600,000, an increase of 1,000 per cent. In the case of the United States the imports for home consumption in 1870 were \$2,121,291,291, and in 1899, they had increased to \$21,212,912,912, an increase of 1,000 per cent.

TALKS BY THE PUBLISHER.

WHEN THE Tribune, on April 1st, adopted the flat rate for advertising, putting all on an equality, it took a long step forward toward dignifying the business side of local journalism. The local custom to be and to some extent still is to solicit advertising by the rate of price and then falling to whatever price the advertiser would give. This gave the latter the generally erroneous impression that he was getting a rare bargain, but it led to a state of affairs, some advertisers paying twice as much as others for the same service; it was unbusinesslike, unfair and, from the standpoint of newspaper self-respect, entirely unwarranted. It was a method that the advertiser would not for a moment tolerate in the sale of his own goods to the public.

The absence of a definite fixed price for advertising and the taking of business on the advertising-you-can-get principle led to another result similar to the local advertiser. It enabled the advertiser to advertise the same medicine and proprietary article firm—through experienced advertising agents to handle with the flexible advertising for the best positions in the paper at the lowest rate and to carry out the same thing ten or fifteen times in some papers have been formed out to foreign advertisers at from one-half to one-third the price of the local merchant for inferior positions. This is grossly unjust and utterly degrading to newspaper values. The flat rate applied by the Tribune to all but old-established business men every advertiser on an equality with every other. The merchant who takes space in this paper under its terms need not be afraid that his competitor in the next block will advertise the same medicine and proprietary article firm—through experienced advertising agents to handle with the flexible advertising for the best positions in the paper at the lowest rate and to carry out the same thing ten or fifteen times in some papers have been formed out to foreign advertisers at from one-half to one-third the price of the local merchant for inferior positions. This is grossly unjust and utterly degrading to newspaper values. The flat rate applied by the Tribune to all but old-established business men every advertiser on an equality with every other. 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